

From: Scott Ferguson <gscott@pc.jaring.my>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 5/2/96 11:13am
Subject: ACTA petition

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2 May 1996

To: FCC

FROM: G. Scott Ferguson
9594 First Avenue NE #263
Seattle, WA 98115 USA

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Sirs:

I understand from sources on the World Wide Web that the ACTA has petitioned the FCC to stop companies from selling software and hardware products that let people make voice calls to other people with computers (and appropriate software) on the internet.

Please enter into the record my objections to this petition.

This is a self-serving action and is not in the public interest. According to a recent article in The Economist, the cost -- to the phone companies -- of calling ones neighbor down the street is nearly the same as calling a friend across the world. Distance based charges are merely a devise to charge high tolls to consumers. The artical also noted that the profits of long distance call companies have been rising much more rapidly than the investment needed to build and maintain these services. I fully belive that these companies should be entitled to a fair and equitable return on their investments; however, in this age of new technologies, the FCC needs to be very careful that an old technologies is not protected to the harm of advances in new technologies.

The self-serving nature of the telephone companies is transperent. They desire to compete with cable television companies; but they want to block others compete with voice transmissions.

Whatever decision is made, I trust the FCC will not act to hastily and overreact to the potential fear that phone companies will be over-run by the Internet.

In considering this proposal, the FCC should consider the following actions:

1. Monitor the development of computer hard-ware and software to see if the threat is real. As it stands now, this is more of a hobbiest activity comparable to two-way radio. I do not know if a packet switching such as used by the internet will ever be comercially viable service.
2. If the threat is real, study how it will impact the construction of phone infrastructure and the future of telecommunications. If the same services can be provided for a fraction of the cost, why shouldn't the consumer benefit?
3. Examine the phone companies practices to determine whether their current pricing schemes are reasonable. (If they are making very large profits, why should they be protected from competition?) The only thing that needs protection is the health of the telecommunications business environment. If this can ruin our telephone service, I would support FCC action in this case; however, it should be assured that this is the case.
3. Conduct and in-depth study of phone-line pricing with a fouse on alternative pricing schemes that would encourage expanding telephone infracture while protecting the consumer.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments and request for additional inquiry.

Very truly yours,

G. Scott Ferguson

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From: Tron Powerhouse <tronepic@sun.tir.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 5/2/96 4:03pm
Subject: RM 8775

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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This is an informal comment to oppose the petition from ACTA regarding internet phone. I'm just an ordinary person who has no personal interest in telecommunications or internet phone technology, other than the fact that I use both in my daily living.

I find it an outrage that certain telephone companies are trying to impose regulations and fees on internet phone use. I pay my local telephone company every month for the priveledge of being able to make a local call to my Internet Service Provider's computer. I pay my internet service provider every month for use of their connection, which they pay the telephone company for, to the internet. So now I am paying TWICE to establish a link to the net. To think I should have to pay ANOTHER fee once there is ridiculous, and another way the Federal Government could impose fees on my \$30,000 a year income.

Did the post office file similar complaints when the telephone was invented?..or did candle makers try to stop Edison?..Or Horse shoe makers try to put the stops on Ford? The fact that technology has surpassed the traditional telephone service is by NO means a reason to stop it. Perhaps these telephone companies would better serve the public by providing more access to the internet rather than oppose it. It is a changing world, and we don't need SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS trying to stop progress and technology in the interest of their share holders.

It's ironic how America, the land of the free, has done more damage to the internet by means of regulation, already than nearly any other country.

Tell these telecommunication lawyers that my tax dollars would be much better spent on meaningful solutions to today's REAL problems, and not on a petition drive with the FCC. Although I may not matter much, it is MY taxes that are being wasted on this obviously BIASED petition in the name of public interest!!!

Tim Daniels
Sterling Heights, MI

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From: Webmaster @USI <webmaster@byu.edu>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 5/2/96 4:10pm
Subject: internet phone communications

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I would just like to file a brief comment about the VON (voice/ video) on the net communication. I am IN FAVOR of making long-distance telephone communication via the internet available to everyone.

Adam Hiatt	450 N 1000 E # 1				
snail (U.S.Mail) ----->	Provo, UT 84606		e-mail:	atom@itsnet.edu	
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From: Nicolas Martin <nmartin@uky.campus.mci.net>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 5/2/96 9:19am
Subject: RM No. 8775

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

As a consumer, I would like to express adamant opposition to the petition filed by the ATCA which attempts to stifle the use of the internet for voice communications. It should not be the business of the FCC to stifle technology, nor should the telcom carriers be afforded any guarantee of profits or protection from competition.

I want the FCC to turn down this petition, and I have notified my congressman and senators of that wish.

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